

TAFT MEN WIN

Will Hold State Convention on May 8.

Bitter Fight Over Proxies in the Meeting.

REGULARS HOLD A MAJORITY

Forces Organized and Insurgents Are Outnumbered.

Dolley, Fighting, Goes Down With the Ship.

The Republican state central committee Thursday voted to hold a convention at Independence May 8 to select four delegates at large to the national convention at Chicago. The vote was 52 to 9.

Independence was selected over Topeka by a vote of 25 to 5. It also passed resolutions endorsing the administration of President Taft and favoring his re-nomination to the presidency. The Taft men were in control of the committee from start to finish, holding a safe majority on all important questions in spite of the predictions of State Chairman Dolley that the committee would favor a presidential preference primary.

The regulars did not gain their end without a fight. In fact, from the time Chairman Dolley called the meeting to order at 3 o'clock this afternoon in Knights and Ladies of Security hall until the adjournment vote was taken the insurgents fought every inch of the way. Many charges and counter charges of unfair and reprehensible methods were made and both sides in the past. But the Taft men said in the end and rode the two-tailed beast until he quit bucking and then they tied him to the rack.

This afternoon Mr. Dolley made a speech to the committee in which he set forth the object of the call. He regretted the ill feeling within the party and declared that "we are here today, not for personal motives, but to launch a successful campaign. It is our duty to place good of party over gain of the individual."

Mr. Dolley closed his address as follows: "For God's sake do not, at any time, manufacture any more material for the Democratic party."

Knights and Ladies of Security hall was crowded to the doors and the committee got down to business. The state convention call provides for a representation of 398 delegates composed of one delegate at large for each county and one for each of 250 cities for Broderick, national elector, 1908 as a basis.

It was a great triumph for the Taft men and a disastrous reverse for the supporters of Roosevelt and a Third Term in Kansas. The Taft men were organized and primed for the occasion. The Roosevelt men were not. They didn't have the votes. The Taft men That is the whole story of the Taft men could tell to a man how many votes they had and where they were from. And how many proxies they held. The Roosevelt leaders knew little about it except that they were in the minority. They charged fraud in obtaining proxies and at first claimed a majority of regular committeemen, but evidently did not have a careful record of their own work and did not know for certain whether or not they had a majority of regular committeemen at the meeting until the vote was taken. They were working haphazard. They were without our usual calm and coolness and trusting to friendly winds and tides to take them to the harbor.

Regulars Well Organized.

The regulars rallied their forces, canvassed every county committee chairman in the state and secured every proxy they could get. The committee men who could not come to Topeka. They polled their supporters after they arrived here and knew all day long just where they stood.

The Roosevelt supporters knew little, but they were sure they had "fraud" and federal "office holder" and all those kind of names.

Fight Over Proxies.

The fight in the committee came early. It started when the regulars holding proxies started to vote for the absent committeemen. The progressives objected to any one having a voice in the meeting on a bona fide basis. They took the ground that under the primary law by which the present state committee was formed no member had a right to give out a proxy any more than a member of the legislature has a right to send a proxy to Topeka to vote for him. They held that the proxies were illegal and irregular and entitled to no vote. Now the regulars had a score or more of proxies and they took the ground that these proxies had a perfect right to represent the men who gave them and they fought for the privilege to vote them. And they won. The regulars won all the time. They had the votes and knew where they were at.

Regulars Win, 25 to 24.

The first test vote of the committee came when Welch of Coffeyville appealed from the decision of the chair in regard to considering proxies on first roll call. Welch insisted that they be considered at that time. Dolley ruled otherwise. On a vote of committee chairmen only, and thus showing the progressive strength for control of the meeting, the regulars voted 25 to 24 to appeal from the decision of the chair. This test vote practically decides that the regulars dominate the meeting. It means that the proxies shall

vote, and most of the proxies are held by Taft men.

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The real fight of the committee was started when Bykes of Smith county read a call for a state convention to be held, a blank date at a blank location, and moved to amend the motion by holding a state wide primary.

The Taft men present called for a vote at once, but Chairman Dolley asked for time to discuss the amendment before a vote was taken. "I believe, gentlemen," said Dolley, "that this question should be discussed before it is summarily disposed of. Thousands of voters are, to my positive knowledge, clamoring for a primary, and that the committee should consider this question. This is a most important matter and handled hastily and injudiciously now may cost us party success in November."

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Gov. Bailey attacked the primary plan because it did not safeguard party interests. He said that Dolley's fairness and ability in running the committee and presenting his primary ideas, and the committee cheered heartily for the chairman.

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Every time the committee rolled back he came and wiped away the foam and bucked that roller again. It was a failing fight, but the undisciplined and unorganized forces never had a chance with the snowplough. Every cog and wheel was working to perfection. There was plenty of power and plenty of fuel. The fight for the primary was read and passed. The day of May 8 was set and Independence named as the place.

Taft Resolutions Adopted.

Then the Taft resolutions were read and great applause greeted them with a rush. The Roosevelt men may make excuses and charges and give a thousand reasons why, but the real reason Taft was endorsed was because he had the votes and the Roosevelt men had no reasons that counted.

The Roosevelt leaders were not. They did not work early enough or hard enough and had no proxies to depend for the absent committeemen the fight was on. But the proxies voted. The Roosevelt men did not. They charged fraud in obtaining proxies and at first claimed a majority of regular committeemen, but evidently did not have a careful record of their own work and did not know for certain whether or not they had a majority of regular committeemen at the meeting until the vote was taken. They were working haphazard. They were without our usual calm and coolness and trusting to friendly winds and tides to take them to the harbor.

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